emergency response agencies have the resources needed to protect our nation's largest city from the most damaging terrorist threat imaginable.

For these reasons, we urge you to appropriate funding to the STC program at a level equal to the FY2008 appropriation—$30 million for acquisitions and $10 million for research, development, and operations. We welcome the opportunity to brief members of your staff on the progress of this program either in the New York region or in Washington, DC.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Kelly, Commissioner, Police Department, City of New York;

Nicholas Scoppetta, Commissioner, Fire Department, City of New York;

Harry J. Corbitt, Superintendent, New York State Police.

Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent, New Jersey State Police;

Colonel Thomas Davoren, Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut State Police;

Lawrence W. Mulvey, Commissioner of Police, Nassau County Police Department;

Richard Dormer, Commissioner, Suffolk County Police Department;

William A. Morange, Deputy Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Authority;

Denise E. O'Donnell, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, New York State/Commissioner, NYS Division of Criminal Justice;

Thomas G. Donlon, Director, New York State Office of Homeland Security;

James F. Kralik, Sheriff, Rockland County Sheriff's Office;

Thomas Belfiore, Commissioner-Sheriff, Westchester County Police Department;

Richard L. Cañas, Director, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness;

James M. Thomas, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security;

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Director of Public Safety/Superintendent of Police, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey;

Steven W. Lawitts, Acting Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, City of New York;

Thomas R. Frieden, Commissioner, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, City of New York;

Joseph F. Bruno, Commissioner, Office of Emergency Management, City of New York and;

Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation.

□ 1700

Madam Chairlady, the King-Clarke bipartisan amendment restores $40 million for the Securing the Cities Initiative, a vital homeland security program which prevents terrorist attacks which are based on nuclear or radiological material, primarily in the form of dirty bombs. I should point out that a nearly identical amendment had the support of this House in 2007 by a majority of more than 2–1.

Securing the Cities is a networked ring of radiological detectors on highways, toll plazas, bridges, tunnels and waterways leading into and out of New York City. It is the only Department of Homeland Security program dedicated to protecting cities and surrounding regions against the nuclear threat of dirty bombs.

Madam Chair, this successful program is an operational model which can be replicated in cities and suburbs throughout the country. The proposed cut in funding for Securing the Cities would seriously undermine further implementation of needed nuclear and radiological detection capability.

The WMD Commission, a bipartisan commission, warned in December of 2008 that nuclear and biological terrorism was not only a serious threat but a likely threat.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KING of New York. I reserve my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I want to first commend my New York colleagues, particularly NITA LOWEY, JOSÉ SERRANO and STEVE ISRAEL, all on the Appropriations Committee, for promoting Securing the Cities and the work that it has made possible in their State. Indeed, their tireless advocacy for New York's regional security has resulted in notable increases in grant allocations to regional governments and first responders.

New York State homeland security grants rose from $27 million in 2006 to $112 million in 2009. That is a four-fold increase. And New York's Urban Area Security Initiative grants grew from $124 million in 2006 to $145 million in 2009. It remains the largest recipient of urban area funds.

I couldn't agree more that Securing the Cities is a valuable pilot program demonstrating how State and local Governments could develop, with Federal agencies, an architecture to prevent a nuclear or radiological attack on New York. But I must emphasize that Securing the Cities is a 3-year pilot project, and this period is over. DHS requested no 2010 program because it is already positioned to accomplish its goals as a pilot program. So what we have here today is, in effect, an earmark for New York.

The next steps are to conclude the program, assess the results, and identify candidates of future pilots, if any, outside of New York. Funding remains available for New York to continue this program well into 2010. About 84 percent of the 2009 funding and 10 percent of the 2008 funding are presently unobligated. Award decisions for these funds are pending with one quarter left in the fiscal year. DHS knows of no unfunded requirements for this program. Remaining balances will enable New York to transition from a pilot to an ongoing regional operation. And that is what needs to happen.

Adding money to continue a completed pilot is not the answer. New York surely does not want to be dependent on year-to-year appropriations amendments to continue this vital protective function. This needs to move to a sustainment mode, run by New York and its partner communities. It needs to identify funding sources that can be used for this purpose, including these urban area security grants, of course, the Transit Security grants, and others. The New York area has received about $1.4 billion through these grants since 2003 and can expect about $298 million in new funding this year.

The amendment also earmarks $10 million for new radiation portal monitors. But here again, there is no identified requirement for additional funding. The ability to put this to use in 2010 is highly questionable.

The amendment's offsets, $5 million from the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management and $45 million from the Under Secretary For Management, are particularly troubling. We are already well below the request in these areas. We have trimmed salary increases. We rejected new investments in departmental facilities. Cutting more funds will result in a longer road to getting the Department of Homeland Security the American taxpayers deserve.

So I appreciate the intention of this amendment. I certainly appreciate the achievements of the Securing the Cities program. We know that this is a vital program and that these protective functions are important. But for that very reason, we need to get away from an earmark, and get away from a pilot program, and put this on the sustainment mode.

It is in that spirit and for that reason that I ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Chair, I recognize the gentlelady from New York, the cosponsor of the amendment, and a really zealous fighter on this issue, Ms. CLARKE, for 90 seconds.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Chairman, I would like to thank Ranking Member KING for yielding. I want to urge Members of the House to support the King-Clarke amendment to the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, H.R. 2892. Neither the President's budget request for fiscal year 2010 nor H.R. 2892 includes funding for the Securing the Cities Initiative. This initiative has created the department's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which is charged with directing the Nation's capability to detect and report